*U May*

Yesterday, Thursday, Francis Jammes and his young wife came to lunch. I went to meet them at the train from Soissons. I found Jammes grown stout, looking very life-of-Reilly as a result of his marriage,

"Doesn't he look happy!" says Ginette. Obviously he has found the life for him.

At his request I had invited the Lacostes, Arthur Fontaine, Bonheur, and Ruyters. The lunch went off very well.

After the coffee, Jammes read us some *"Proses sur Bernadette"* which he gave in part to the *Figaro,* then a *Lettre d, P. C. Consul,* which he is putting in the hands of the N.R.F.[2]

"An all the more magnificent work since you are named in it," lie had written me a few days before.

He leaves the others a moment, goes up with me into the library, and there, with a great sigh:

"You are certainly lucky not to have any disciples! I don't know how you manage. . . ."

**They are the ones who wouldn't know how to manage it."

Then suddenly:

"I am afraid that Bonnard will begin to cut the ground out from under me."

Blum said to me: "Ernest-Charles always insists on my finesse and discrimination" (we were talking about an article in the *Grande Revue* concerning the republication of the *Nouveaux Eckermann*).* "He would like to get me accepted as the Jules Lemattre of a generation of which he would be the Bruneti&re."

*4 July*

Going through Paris for the review copies of *La Porte dtroite,* I stop at the Vaterys* to get news of Jeannie Val6ry, on whom there was some question of operating. Degas is with her and has been wearing her out for more than an hour, for he is very hard of hearing and she has a weak voice. I find Degas has aged but is just like himself; just

a bit more obsti-

[2] The "Prose Lines about Bernadette" concern his little neighbor Bernadette Soubirous, later sainted; the letter was addressed to Paul ClaudeL. This is the first mention Gide makes of the *Nouvelle Revue Frangaise,* which lie founded with Copeau, Schlumberger, Eugene Montfort, and others. After the first number had appeared, in November 1908, a quarrel eliminated Montfort from the board and a new initial number appeared in February 1909. From then until 1940, the N.R.F. under the successive editorship of Copeau, Jacques Rivi&re, and Jean Paulhan, but always reflecting the influence of Gide, was the leading literary periodical in France, if not in Europe.

[a] Blum's *New Conversations of Goethe with Eckermann-*